

2/(Amended) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the Vs (19, 20) have aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) that are substantially equal and greater than the docking angle ( $\beta$ ).

3/(Amended) Position-holding means according to claim 2, wherein for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) of about  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about  $120^\circ$ .

4/(Amended) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the female V (20) possesses an end portion (20.2) having an aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) substantially equal to the aperture angle of the male V (19) which is not less than the docking angle ( $\beta$ ), and wherein the aperture angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V is greater than the aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) of the end portion (20.2) thereof.

5/(Amended) Position-holding means according to claim 4, wherein, for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) of the male V and of the end portion (20.2) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ , and the aperture angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to  $120^\circ$ .

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6/(Amended) Position-holding means according to claim 1, wherein the means for pressing the Vs together comprise a peg (23) projecting from the male V (19) symmetrically relative thereto so as to be inserted into an elongate slot (22) formed in the female V (20) and having a major axis contained in the plane of the docking direction, at least one jaw (24) being movably mounted on the peg (23) to be actuated between an active position in which it forms an abutment for a rear face (26) of the female V facing away from the male V, and an inactive position in which it is retracted and allows the peg to pass freely through the slot of the female V.

7/(Amended) Apparatus for assembling bodywork, the apparatus comprising two side tools (14) supporting body sides (2) and a tool (11) extending transversely relative to the two side tools, comprising means (18) according to claim 1 for holding the side tools and the transverse tool in position relative to one another, the transverse tool having at least two Vs (19) disposed symmetrically about a longitudinal axis of the bodywork and designed to co-operate with corresponding Vs (20) fixed to the side tools.

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8/(Amended) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) of about  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about  $120^\circ$ , and wherein the bisector

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(b) of the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) forms an angle of about  $45^\circ$  with the longitudinal axis of the bodywork.

9/(Amended) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the Vs secured to the transverse tool (11) are male Vs (19) and the Vs secured to the side tools (14) are female Vs (20).--

Please add the following claim:

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--10/(New) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) of the male V and of the end portion (20.2) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ , and the aperture angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to  $120^\circ$ , and wherein the bisector (b) of the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) forms an angle of about  $45^\circ$  with the longitudinal axis of the bodywork.--